

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 48-90, 93-101, 103-107, 122-129, 131-133, and 135-140 are pending in the application, with claims 48, 90, and 135 being independent claims. Claims 1-47 and 102 were previously cancelled. Claims 91, 92, 108-121, 130, and 134 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 48, 51, 61, 64-68, 77-79, 83, 90, 93, 94, 98, 105, 107, 129, and 131-133 are sought to be amended to more clearly point out the subject matter recited therein. Claim 90 is amended to incorporate the features of claim 92 which was previously considered and objected to by the Examiner. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter and to further place the application in better condition for allowance or appeal. Prompt entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Double-Patenting Rejection

Claim 48 was rejected under non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent 5,999,908 to Abelow. Applicant is submitting herewith a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) to overcome the double patenting rejection. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 48 for double patenting.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 48-89, 98-107, 122-129, 131-133, and 135-140 are allowed, and that claim 92 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 90 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 92. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 90 is allowable. Claims 93 and 97, which depend from amended claim 90, are also believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide an indication of its allowance in a subsequent communication.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 90-91, 93-97, 108-117, 119-121 130, 134 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,731,818 to Clark *et al.* (hereinafter Clark). This rejection is traversed and/or moot for the following reasons.

Claim 90 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 92. Accordingly, claim 90 is patentable over Clark. Claims 93-97 depend from amended claim 90. Applicant therefore requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 90 and 93-97.

Claims 91, 108-117, 119-121, 130, and 134 are cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection of these claims moot.

Claim 118 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,816,904 to McKenna *et al.* Claim 118 is cancelled, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

Other Matters

Applicant respectfully notes that a Change of Correspondence Address was filed with the USPTO on September 29, 2005. A copy is enclosed herewith. However, the December 16, 2005 Office Action was mailed to an incorrect address. Applicant respectfully requests that the Change of Correspondence Address be entered.

Additionally, please amend the Attorney Docket No. as follows: ~~03058-~~
~~0040006~~2222.2630007.

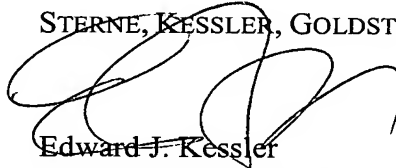
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Edward J. Kessler
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 25,688

Date: 24 Feb, 2006

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

MVM/YAT/jmh
485814_1.doc